Facts You Should Know

- We do not think kids should smoke . . PERIOD! That is why we strongly support effective programs like *WE CARD* and the Department of Health and Human Services' new regulations.

- President Clinton's decision is pure political diversion. The day before Clinton made his announcement on FDA, his own administration released a report that teen drug use is skyrocketing.

- The claim that tobacco is a "gateway drug" that leads to the use of illicit drugs is preposterous. If that were true, we would have had a nation filled with drug addicts back in the 50's and 60's when a majority of American adults smoked. Common sense helps people distinguish between legal, culturally-acceptable products like tobacco and mind-altering, hard drugs like cocaine, LSD and heroin.

- The FDA's new regulations clearly are in violation of the First Amendment.

- We could be on our way to prohibition. The government's stated goal is a smoke-free society by the year 2000, and this is yet another step toward the total prohibition of tobacco products. Now the FDA would have the authority to make it happen.

- Clinton's approval of the FDA effort has nothing to do with youth smoking . . . it is an election-year gimmick. All the Clinton administration's political talk about protecting our children can be solved by the new federal regulation enacted this year by HHS.

  - HHS's new regulations requires all 50 states to show dramatic improvement in reducing youth smoking or lose millions of dollars in federal funding for other programs. Since Congress passed the law, more than 30 states have further strengthened their existing laws against youth smoking.

  - The HHS approach gets better results at a lower cost.

    Better results!
    HHS regulations require 80% success within several years. FDA rules would require only a 50% success rate.

    Costs Taxpayers Less!
    HHS regulations cost about $100 million a year. FDA says its rules will cost more than $227 million a year (considered by many to be an extremely low estimate).

  - The HHS regulations give states the flexibility to implement their own programs.

  - The HHS approach was authorized by Congress. FDA was not. Clinton gives unelected bureaucrats at the FDA extraordinary power to dictate how a legal product is manufactured and marketed . . . this is a dangerous precedent.

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